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new lands. The concession he suggested was that the present owners of the estates should be permitted to purchase, without recourse to regular auction, adjoining waste lands up to 33 per cent of the acreage of their holdings, at the upset price of Rs. 25 per acre. The rules provided for the lands being auctioned and the Member requested that that should not be resorted to wherever the original owners applied for adjoining lands within the maximum suggested by him.

Dewan's reply.—The Government are now pursuing a policy of giving preferential consideration to the owners of adjoining estates when waste lands are assigned. The policy will be continued. But no definite rule will be laid down or promise made. It is noted that the Member does not ask for any reduction in the acreage value of Rs. 25 per acre.

8. The desirability of expediting the registry of Cherikal lands in the Peermade taluk included in the Thanathuchitta register under favourable conditions.

Mr. R. Krishna Panikkar (Member, Peermade taluk) thanked the Dewan for the benefits conferred upon the Nair community by the passing of the Nair Regulation. Proceeding to the subject, the Member said that there were several *cherikal* lands in the taluk included in the *thanathuchitta* register, which had to be assigned, and he complained of the delay of the Revenue Department in registering them. He pointed out that *cherikal* lands could only be cultivated once in twelve years and the assessment of five fanams per acre imposed by the Government was felt as a heavy burden by the holders. The profits from the cultivation would not in some cases be enough even to pay the tax to the Government. Another hardship experienced by the ryots was the accumulated arrears now being recovered from them in a lump at the time the registry was being effected. The amount of the arrears increased with the delay in completing the registry. In view of the peculiar difficulties of *cherikal* cultivation, the Member prayed for the following reliefs :—

(1) Stringent orders should be issued to the Revenue Department to expedite the registry of the lands.

(2) Such of the lands as were already in the enjoyment of holders should be registered in their names and the arrears due recovered in three yearly instalments.

(3) The remaining lands available for registry should be registered in the names of poor applicants in blocks of five acres each on payment of the *thadivila* and the current year's tax.

(4) The assessment of five fanams per acre should be reduced to three fanams per acre.

He also requested that two blocks of 100 acres each might be set apart as grazing grounds on the side of the Kottayam—Kumili road from the 21st to the 29th mile and also that a Veterinary hospital be established at Kanjirappall.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

9. The desirability of permitting malavaram cultivation in the Thodupuzha taluk under certain conditions.

Mr. Chacko Eippe (Member, Thodupuzha taluk) said that the people of Thodupuzha subsisted mainly on the cultivation of hill slopes, that forest reserves, rubber plantations &c., had reduced the scope of their cultivation to a large

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extent, and that they were generally poor and could not afford to pay the acreage value and get waste lands registered in their names under the rules. In their order No. 3927/L. R., dated the 16th April 1911, the Government had absolutely prohibited *malavaram* cultivation. In the peculiar condition of the taluk, the rule operated as a great hardship on the poor people. The Member therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to permit *malavaram* cultivation by the ryots of the taluk on payment by them of a light tax and on their agreeing in writing to take due care of the trees standing on the lands.

Dewan's reply.—The Government will not go back on their order prohibiting *malavaram* cultivation.

10. The necessity for the remission of the land-tax when cultivation fails.

Mr. G. A. Baker (Member, Nominated) represented that, in South Travancore, the Government allowed remission of tax in cases where cultivation wholly failed, but the concession was not applicable to Central Travancore. The Member admitted that the ryots had plenty of water in Central Travancore, but the cultivation often failed owing to too much of water. He failed to see why the rule should not be extended to Central Travancore also. He suggested that some department, preferably the Agricultural Department, be asked to inspect the lands on the application of the ryots and to take steps to remit the tax in cases of complete failure of crops.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar will be asked to report on the matter.

11. The treatment of certain registered holdings as Porambores in the Land Records Maintenance work now going on in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. Kanakku Aiyappan Narayanan (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) said that as much as three-fourths of the lands which were being treated as *porambores* in the Land Records Maintenance work now going on in the taluk were really registered holdings. That would be evident from the circumstance that the trees on them had been assessed in the Settlement of 1012, and also from the age of the trees, some of which being as old as 60 years. In the Survey of the taluk in 1064 M. E., the demarcation stones on the banks of rivers and canals and on the sides of roads were planted far into the adjoining registered lands. When the owners of those lands objected, they were told that the stones were so planted to prevent their being washed away or otherwise tampered with, that the position of those stones would not affect their rights and that the ryots would be granted pattas at the Settlement for the full extent of their holdings. But at the Settlement, the ryots were given pattas only for such areas as were apparently in their possession from the position of the demarcation stones and the excess areas were in all cases recorded as *porambores*. The ryots however did not know it at the time, because the original measurements of the holdings were carefully omitted to be shown in the rough pattas (*theliruchets*) issued to them. The Land Records staff rigidly followed the treatment at the Settlement and the ryots now realised for the first time that many of their registered holdings had in that way become *porambores*. Action was also being taken against the holders under Regulation II of 1067 and the so-called encroachments were asked to be vacated. A few of the ryots had preferred appeals to the Government,